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Rogers Connecticut 06263(US)

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(72) Inventor: Bakke, Stephen M.  
30 Lincoln Drive  
Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06335(US)

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
BE DE FR GB IT

(71) Applicant: ROGERS CORPORATION  
One Technology Drive

(74) Representative: Kador & Partner  
Corneliusstrasse 15  
W-8000 München 5(DE)

(54) Electrical circuit board interconnect.

(57) A connector arrangement for providing electrical interconnection between corresponding contact pads of opposed first and second circuit boards includes an electrically nonconductive support member disposed between the boards, a bodily-rotatable, electrically conductive interconnect element, generally of dumbbell shape, extending through the thickness of the support and having a pair of pad engagement surfaces disposed to engage the respective contact pads, and a clamp for retaining the circuit boards in a clamped-together relationship with the support member in a compressed, reduced thickness state and with the interconnect member bodily rotated. The support member includes a resilient elastomeric

material, has support surfaces respectively opposed to the board surfaces, and is adapted to be compressed by urging of the boards together. A line projected through the engagement surfaces at the time of their initial engagement upon the contact pads is disposed at an initial, acute angle to the direction of thickness of the support member, and, when being rotated, the same line lies at an acute angle to the direction of thickness of the support greater than the initial angle, the body of the support being locally deformed by the interconnect element and resiliently biasing the interconnect towards its original position, into engagement with the pads.

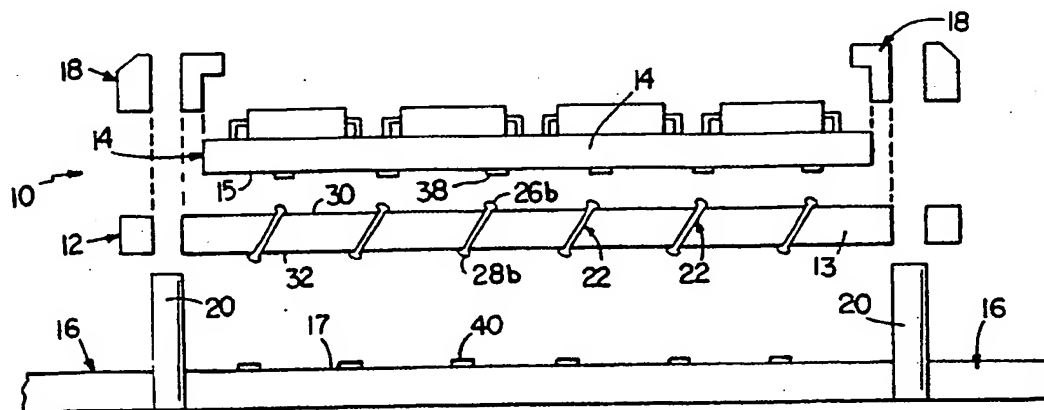


FIG.3

## ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT BOARD INTERCONNECT

This invention relates to devices for interconnecting contact pads of opposed circuit board surfaces.

Electrical interconnection between opposed circuits has, in the past, been provided by pin-and-socket engagement, e.g., as shown in Welu U.S. 4,249,787. It has also been known to provide interconnection via resilient conductors disposed in matrixes, including solid or foam elastomer, e.g., as shown in Lamp U.S. 4,003,621, Luttmmer U.S. 3,795,037, Sado U.S. 4,295,700, and Cherian et al. U.S. 4,161,346 and U.S. 4,199,209. It has also been suggested to employ connection devices consisting of a line of conductor sheets supported in a housing on elastically deformable rolls extending the length of the housing, as shown in Bonnefoy U.S. 4,445,735.

It has further been shown to employ S-shaped interconnect elements disposed in an elastomer matrix, e.g., zifcak et al. U.S. 4,793,814 shows S-shaped interconnect elements having pairs of tabs for engaging contact pads associated with each opposed circuit.

It has further been suggested to employ interconnect elements having convex wiping surfaces to provide a camming relationship between the interconnect element and contact traces, e.g. as shown in Cosmo U.S. 4,593,961.

The objectives of the present invention include providing a connector arrangement having improvement in one or more of the following features: consistency of contact stresses during repeated connector compression/decompression cycles, minimal deformation of the connector element, high contact density, simplicity of design, ease of manufacture, predictability of the effect of temperature and time on performance, and contact pad wiping during compression.

### Summary of the Invention

According to one aspect of the invention, an area array connector device for providing electrical interconnection between a plurality of first contact pads arranged on a surface of a first circuit board and a plurality of corresponding second contact pads on an opposed surface of a second opposed circuit board comprises an electrically nonconductive support member adapted to be disposed between the circuit boards and comprising resilient elastomer material, the support member having support surfaces to be respectively opposed to the surfaces of the first and second circuit boards, and a plurality of bodily-rotatable, electrically conductive interconnect elements, each interconnect ele-

ment comprising an axially elongated, rigid body member extending generally in the direction of the thickness of the resilient elastomer support member, a first terminal member, and a second terminal member, each terminal member having a width sufficiently greater than the diameter of the rigid body member to resist removal of the interconnect element from the elastomeric support member, the terminating members being disposed generally coaxially with the body member, and shaped to provide pad engagement surfaces about the axis capable of proper engagement with the respective contact pads regardless of orientation of the element about its axis, a line projected through the pad engagement surfaces being disposed at an acute angle to the direction of thickness of the support member, and the first and second terminal members further defining support member engaging surfaces disposed about the axis and at least closely in opposition to the support surfaces of the support member to engage upon the support surfaces during bodily rotation of the interconnect element whereby, when the area array connector device is disposed between the circuit boards in a clamped-together relationship with the interconnect elements in registry with their respective corresponding contact pads and with the interconnect elements rotated bodily as a result of the clamping so that the line projected through the pad engagement surfaces of each element lies at an acute angle, the interconnect elements are supported by the elastomer support member to bear with force upon the contact pads.

Preferred embodiments of this aspect of the invention may include one or more of the following features. The pad engagement surfaces are disposed generally symmetrically about the axis. The support member engagement surfaces are disposed generally symmetrically about the axis. Preferably the pad engagement surfaces are rounded convexly. More preferably, the interconnect element has a first body diameter in the region of the body adjacent the terminal member and a second terminal diameter in the region of the terminal member between the pad engagement surface and the support member engagement surface, the second diameter being greater than the first diameter, the interconnect element being disposed in an aperture extending generally through the support member, the aperture having a diameter generally corresponding to the first body diameter of the interconnect element, the support member engagement surfaces of the terminal elements of the second, greater diameter adapted to bear upon the opposite surfaces of the support member in a

manner to resist displacement of the terminal members into the support member.

According to another aspect of the invention, an area array connector device for providing electrical interconnection between a plurality of first contact pads arranged on a surface of a first circuit board and a plurality of corresponding second contact pads on an opposed surface of a second opposed circuit board comprises an electrically nonconductive support member adapted to be disposed between the circuit boards and comprising resilient elastomeric foam material, defining a distribution of voids, the support member having support surfaces to be respectively opposed to the surfaces of the first and second circuit boards and being adapted to be compressed by urging of the circuit boards together, and a plurality of bodily-rotatable, electrically conductive interconnect elements, each interconnect element comprising an axially elongated, rigid body member extending generally in the direction of the thickness of the resilient elastomeric foam support member, a first terminal member, and a second terminal member, each terminal member having a width sufficiently greater than the diameter of the rigid body member to resist removal of the interconnect element from the elastomeric support member, the terminal members being disposed generally coaxially with the axis of the body member and being of shape to provide pad engagement surfaces about the axis capable of proper engagement with the respective contact pads, a line projected through the pad engagement surfaces being disposed at an acute angle to the direction of thickness of the support member, and the first and second terminal members further defining support member engaging surfaces disposed about the axis and at least closely in opposition to the support surfaces of the support member during bodily rotation of the interconnect element to locally compress the elastomeric foam of the support member, whereby, when the area array connector device is disposed between the circuit boards in a clamped-together relationship with the interconnect elements in registry with their respective corresponding contact pads and with the interconnect elements rotated bodily as a result of the clamping so that the line projected through the pad engagement surfaces of each element lies at an acute angle, the interconnect elements are resiliently supported by the elastomeric foam support member to bear with force upon the contact pads, and the voids of the elastomeric foam of the support member serve locally to accommodate bodily rotation of the interconnect elements in a manner avoiding disturbance of adjacent elements whereby displacement of the elastomeric foam material of the support member about each interconnect element is limited gen-

erally to the local region of the element.

Preferred embodiments of this aspect of the invention may include one or more of the following features. The pad engagement surfaces are disposed generally symmetrically about the axis. Preferably, the support member engagement surfaces are disposed generally symmetrically about the axis. More preferably, the pad engagement surfaces are rounded convexly, the interconnect element having a first body diameter in the region of the body adjacent the terminal member and a second terminal diameter in the region of the terminal member between the pad engagement surface and the support member engagement surface, the second diameter being greater than the first diameter, preferably the interconnect element being disposed in an aperture extending generally through the support member, the aperture having a diameter generally corresponding to the first body diameter of the interconnect element, the support member engagement surfaces of the terminal elements of the second, greater diameter adapted to bear upon the opposite surfaces of the support member in a manner to resist displacement of the terminal members into the support member. The support member comprises a film disposed on at least one support surface, the modulus of elasticity of the film allowing application of higher compressional forces than allowed by the elastomeric foam alone. Preferably, the film is formed of polyester.

Preferred embodiments of both aspects of the invention may include one or more of the following features. The terminal members are substantially axi-symmetric relative to one another. The rigid body member and the terminal members are symmetric about the axis and together conformed substantially to a surface of revolution. The body member is disposed in a hole of circular cross-section generally corresponding in diameter to the diameter of the rigid body member. The interconnect element and the support members are preformed members, the interconnect element having preformed terminal members that are enlarged relative to the body member and the support member having preformed through-holes that are smaller than the terminal member, and the interconnect element and support member are cooperatively constructed to enable insertion of the rigid body members by elastomeric yielding of the walls of the through-hole of the support member, during the insertion. The pad engagement surfaces conform substantially to sections of a sphere.

These and other features and advantages of the invention will be understood from the following description of the presently preferred embodiment, and from the claims.

#### Description of a Presently Preferred Embodiment

We first briefly describe the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an exploded view in perspective of a circuit including a preferred embodiment of the connector arrangement of the invention;

Fig. 2a is an enlarged perspective view of a prior art S-shaped interconnect element;

Figs. 2b through 2g are enlarged perspective views of preferred embodiments of the interconnect element in the connector arrangement of Fig. 1;

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 are somewhat diagrammatic side section views of the circuit of Fig. 1, respectively showing the circuit in exploded, assembled and compression states; and

Figs. 6 and 6a are enlarged side section views of a segment of the circuit of Fig. 1 showing the circuit segment in assembled and compression states.

Figs. 7 and 7a are enlarged side section views of a segment of the circuit of Fig. 1 showing the circuit with alternative embodiments of the support member.

Referring to Fig. 1, the electrical circuit 10 consists of connector arrangement 12 disposed between first and second electrical circuit boards 14, 16. Clamping frame 18 is provided for fixed assembly of the circuit over alignment posts 20.

Area array connector arrangement 12 consists of a sheet-form support member 13 of planar expanse, having uncompressed thickness, A, e.g., between about 0.635 mm (0.025 inch) and 12.7 mm (0.500 inch), and preferably about 2.77 mm (0.109 inch), including resilient, electrically nonconductive elastomeric material in the form of open cell foam having a density in the range of about 32.32 to 1050.4 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (2 to 65 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>) and preferably about 404 to 888.8 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (25 to 55 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>), compared to a material density of about 1050.4 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (65 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>), for an air or cell volume in the range of about 0% to 95%, preferably about 10 to 40%.

The support member has a characteristic compression force deflection (CFD) in the range of 140.8 to 3520 gm/cm<sup>2</sup> (2 to 50 lbs/in<sup>2</sup>) at 25 percent compression, and has a compression set, tested by ASTM Test Standard D 3574, of less than 10% compression set after 22 hours at 70°C (158°F) at 50% compression with one-half hour recovery. The foam material of support member 13 preferably urethane, silicone or natural rubber, although the specific material employed is less critical than the physical characteristics mentioned above, and other suitable materials may also be employed, e.g., copolymers of butadiene-styrene, butadiene-acrylonitrile, butadiene-isobutylene, chloroprene polymers, polysulfide polymers, plasticized vinyl chloride and acetate polymers and copolymers. Where the elastomeric foam material is urethane, the average void diameter is of the

order of about 125 microns.

Area array connector 12 also consists of a multiplicity of interconnect elements 22, e.g., as shown in Figs. 2b through 2g, disposed in the support member 13, and positioned selectively in the plane of the connector array, with element body 24 extending through the aperture in the support member to expose contact pad engagement surfaces 26, 28 adjacent connector array surfaces 30, 32. The relative positions of the engagement surfaces are predetermined to correspond, when assembled, to the positions of contact pads on the opposed circuit board surfaces.

Referring to Fig. 2a, an interconnect element 23 as described and claimed in Zifcak U.S. 4,793,814 is shown. In zifcak, S-shaped interconnect element 23 consists of body 24(a) and tabs 27(a), 29(a) of electricity-conducting material, e.g., copper or other metal or metal-coated resin (provided the volume of metal is sufficient for the desired level of conductance, typically less than 1 ohm for power applications and less than 25 milliohms for signal applications).

Referring to Fig. 2b, a preferred embodiment of the interconnect element of the invention is shown. This interconnect element 22 comprises a rod-like body 24(b), terminated at each end by terminal members 27(b), 29(b), respectively. At least one terminal member 27(b), 29(b) is sized and shaped to facilitate insertion of interconnect element 22 into the support member during assembly and to hold element 22 in place after assembly. More specifically, terminal member 27(b) operates as an arrowhead, with pad engagement surface 26(b) being rounded convexly or otherwise tapered to spread the support member material during insertion.

To resist displacement of the terminal member into the support member after assembly, each terminal member 27(b), 29(b) is chosen to have a relatively large width W. Width W is sufficiently greater than the diameter D of rod like body 24(b), and that of the aperture in support member 13, that the terminal member engages the support member to resist removal of element 22 from the aperture.

Preferably, element 22 is symmetric as depicted in Fig. 2b, thereby eliminating the need to orient element 22 during assembly, e.g. as with S-shaped element 23 shown in Fig. 2a. Further the symmetric shape simplifies the manufacture of the interconnect element thereby lowering its cost.

In the preferred embodiment shown, element 22 has a rod diameter D, in the range of about 0.216 to 0.292 mm (0.0085 to 0.0115 inch), and a rod length L<sub>1</sub> selected to extend at angle B generally through the support member between surfaces 30, 32 in the uncompressed state (Figs. 4 and 6). Each terminal member 27(b), 29(b) prefer-

ably has a length  $L_2$  of approximately 0.305 mm (0.012 inch), and a width  $W$  in the range of 0.483 to 0.584 mm (0.019 to 0.023 inch) representing the diameter of the terminal member at its widest point. Further, each pad engagement surface 26(b), 28(b) is preferably defined in part by a first radius  $R_1$  of approximately 0.508 mm (0.020 inch) and a second radius  $R_2$  of approximately 0.127 mm (0.005 inch).

Element 22 is preferably constructed of the electrically conductive materials described in Zifcak U.S. 4,793,814 or of plated hard plastic, or molded silver alloy with gold plating.

Referring to Fig. 6, when disposed in the support member in the assembled, uncompressed state, body 24 preferably lies at acute angle  $B$ , to the direction of thickness of the support member (the normal line between surfaces 30, 32), angle  $B$ , being in the range of about 0 to 70°, preferably about 10° to 40° and optimally about 30° to 35°.

Disposed above and below area array connector arrangement 12 are circuit boards 14, 16 having board surfaces 15, 17 respectfully opposed to connector array surfaces 30, 32. Disposed on the board surfaces are contact pads 38, 40, in the embodiment shown having thickness of about 0.025 mm (0.001 inch).

When assembled (Fig. 4), each contact pad 38 of board 14 lies in electricity-conductive contact with the opposed contact pad engagement surface 26 of the interconnect element 22, which extends through the support member 13 to electricity-conductive contact between contact pad engagement surface 28 and contact pad 40 of the opposed circuit board 16. The pairs of contact pads connected via element 22 are offset from each other, and the element is configured in a manner to cause the element to move bodily in the support member as compressional force is applied to the opposed board, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6a, and described in more detail below.

Referring again to Fig. 6, the circuit 10 is shown in assembled state, with area array connector 12 disposed between circuit boards 14, 16. Interconnect elements 22 extend through the support member 13, with contact pad engagement surfaces 26, 28 of terminal members 27, 29 disposed in contact with contact pads 38, 40. The centers of the opposed contact pads to be electrically interconnected are offset from each other by a distance,  $\Delta$ , e.g., about 2.032 mm (0.080 inch), and the support member engagement surfaces engage the respective planar surfaces 30, 32 of the support member 13. In this uncompressed state, with interconnect elements just contacting the contact pads, the circuit boards are separated by a distance  $N$  equal to about 136% of the uncompressed thickness  $T$  of the support of member

13 (e.g.,  $N = 2.769$  mm (0.109 inch)).

Referring to Fig. 6a, upon application of compression force to the opposed boards, represented by arrows,  $p$ , the gap between board surfaces 15, 17 is decreased to distance,  $G$ , equal to from between 130% to about 75% of  $T$ , preferably about 118%, (e.g., in the embodiment shown,  $G$  is about 2.413 mm (0.095 inch)). The combination of the structure of the interconnect elements 22, the relationship of the elements to the material of the surrounding support member matrix, and the angle of the line projected through the contact pad engagement surfaces of the interconnect element at the time of their initial engagement upon the contact pad surfaces causes the interconnect elements to move bodily within the support member by rotation, e.g. about axes,  $X$ , on the support member center-line to a greater acute angle without significant flexing of the interconnect element. The cellular open nature of the foam of support member 13 allows the member to give resiliently by a decrease in size of the foam voids, without significant adverse affect on the position of surrounding adjacent interconnect elements. As the interconnect element rotates, the contact pad engagement surfaces also move along the opposed surfaces of the contact pads, indicated by arrows,  $S$ , over a distance,  $E$ , in a wiping action that removes oxides, dust particles and the like from the contacting surfaces for improved electricity-conducting contact. (Where angle  $B$  is about 30%, the length,  $E$ , is typically about 0.254 mm (0.010 inch).)

As mentioned, the interconnect elements rotate without significant flexing or deformation. As a result, when pressure,  $P$ , is removed, the resilience to return the conductor element to essentially its original position, as shown in Fig. 6, is provided entirely by the resilience of the support member.

The positions of interconnect elements in the support member are predetermined, and apertures are formed at precise locations, e.g., by numerically controlled drilling. The elements may also be cast in place, or the support member may be cast in a manner to provide apertures at the desired positions. Interconnect elements 22 may be used with generally round apertures in lieu of the slotted apertures required with S-shaped elements 23 (e.g., Zifcak et al. U.S. 4,793,814). Each round aperture requires less area than a slotted aperture since the slotted aperture must be large enough to accommodate the bent tab of S-shaped element 23.

Further, with a given angular displacement, elements 22 provide greater wiping action than S-shaped elements 23. Since less angular displacement is required, elements 22 may be grouped more closely together without touching after compression. Further, the reduction in angular displace-

ment operates to reduce the extent to which the elastomer foam of support member 13 is distorted by the interconnect elements during full compression. Accordingly, a solid elastomer 13, which is more resistant to distortion than the foam, may be used. The solid elastomer will push back on the interconnect elements with a greater force than the foam to thereby provide more contact force for the same degree of angular displacement.

Other embodiments are within the following claims. For example, terminal members 27, 29 may be shaped as spheres 27(c), 29(c) (Fig. 2c); prolated spheroids 27(d), 29(d) (Fig. 2d); full or partial hemispheres 27(e), 29(e) (Fig. 2e); bulbs 27(f), 29(f) (Fig. 2f); or modified bulbs 27(g), 29(g) (Fig. 2g) wherein each modified bulb 27(g), 29(g) has an indent 42, 44 near the center of the pad engagement surface 26(g), 28(g).

The support member may be an open cell foam or may be of other construction providing the desired voids. Referring to Fig. 7, the support member may include a sheet-form layer 110 of generally nondistensible material, e.g., Mylar® or woven fiberglass mat, disposed upon support member surfaces 130, 132, the modulus of elasticity of the material of the film allowing application of higher compressional force without adversely affecting performance of the connector arrangement, and also permitting adjustment of the coefficient of thermal expansion of the connector arrangement.

Referring to Fig. 7a, similar results may be achieved using a layer of open cell foam 112 sandwiched between layers 114, 116 of solid elastomer.

## Claims

1. An area array connector device for providing electrical interconnection between a plurality of first contact pads arranged on a surface of a first circuit board and a plurality of corresponding second contact pads on an opposed surface of a second opposed circuit board, said area array connector device comprising an electrically nonconductive support member adapted to be disposed between the circuit boards and comprising resilient elastomer material, said support member having support surfaces to be respectively opposed to the surfaces of the first and second circuit boards, and

a plurality of bodily-rotatable, electrically conductive interconnect elements, each said interconnect element comprising

an axially elongated, rigid body member extending generally in the direction of the thickness of the resilient elastomer support

member,

a first terminal member, and

a second terminal member,

each said terminal member having a width sufficiently greater than the diameter of said rigid body member to resist removal of said interconnect element from said elastomeric support member, said terminating members being disposed generally coaxially with said body member, and shaped to provide pad engagement surfaces about said axis capable of proper engagement with the respective contact pads regardless of orientation of the element about its axis, a line projected through said pad engagement surfaces being disposed at an acute angle to the direction of thickness of said support member, and

said first and second terminal members further defining support member engaging surfaces disposed about said axis and at least closely in opposition to said support surfaces of said support member to engage upon said support surfaces during bodily rotation of said interconnect element whereby, when said area array connector device is disposed between the circuit boards in a clamped-together relationship with said interconnect elements in registry with their respective corresponding contact pads and with said interconnect elements rotated bodily as a result of said clamping so that said line projected through said pad engagement surfaces of each element lies at an acute angle, said interconnect elements are supported by said elastomer support member to bear with force upon the contact pads.

2. The area array connector device of claim 1 wherein said pad engagement surfaces are disposed generally symmetrically about said axis.
3. The area array connector device of claim 2 wherein said support member engagement surfaces are disposed generally symmetrically about said axis.
4. The area array connector device of claim 3 wherein said pad engagement surfaces are rounded convexly.
5. The area array device of claim 4 wherein said interconnect element has a first body diameter in the region of said body adjacent said terminal member and a second terminal diameter in the region of said terminal member between said pad engagement surface and said support member engagement surface, said second diameter being greater than said first diameter.

6. The area array device of claim 5 wherein said interconnect element being disposed in an aperture extending generally through said support member, said aperture having a diameter generally corresponding to said first body diameter of said interconnect element, the support member engagement surfaces of said terminal elements of said second, greater diameter adapted to bear upon the opposite surfaces of said support member in a manner to resist displacement of said terminal members into said support member.
7. An area array connector device for providing electrical interconnection between a plurality of first contact pads arranged on a surface of a first circuit board and a plurality of corresponding second contact pads on an opposed surface of a second opposed circuit board, said area array connector device comprising an electrically nonconductive support member adapted to be disposed between the circuit boards and comprising resilient elastomeric foam material, defining a distribution of voids said support member having support surfaces to be respectively opposed to the surfaces of the first and second circuit boards and being adapted to be compressed by urging of the circuit boards together, and  
a plurality of bodily-rotatable, electrically conductive interconnect elements, each said interconnect element comprising  
an axially elongated, rigid body member extending generally in the direction of the thickness of the resilient elastomeric foam support member,  
a first terminal member, and  
a second terminal member,  
each said terminal member having a width sufficiently greater than the diameter of said rigid body member to resist removal of said interconnect element from said elastomeric support member, said terminal members being disposed generally coaxially with the axis of said body member and being of shape to provide pad engagement surfaces about said axis capable of proper engagement with the respective contact pads, a line projected through said pad engagement surfaces being disposed at an acute angle to the direction of thickness of said support member, and  
said first and second terminal members further defining support member engaging surfaces disposed about said axis and at least closely in opposition to said support surfaces of said support member during bodily rotation of said interconnect element to locally compress the elastomeric foam of said support

member,

whereby, when said area array connector device is disposed between the circuit boards in a clamped-together relationship with said interconnect elements in registry with their respective corresponding contact pads and with said interconnect elements rotated bodily as a result of said clamping so that said line projected through said pad engagement surfaces of each element lies at an acute angle, said interconnect elements are resiliently supported by said elastomeric foam support member to bear with force upon the contact pads, and said voids of said elastomeric foam of said support member serve locally to accommodate bodily rotation of said interconnect elements in a manner avoiding disturbance of adjacent elements whereby displacement of the elastomeric foam material of said support member about each said interconnect element is limited generally to the local region of said element.

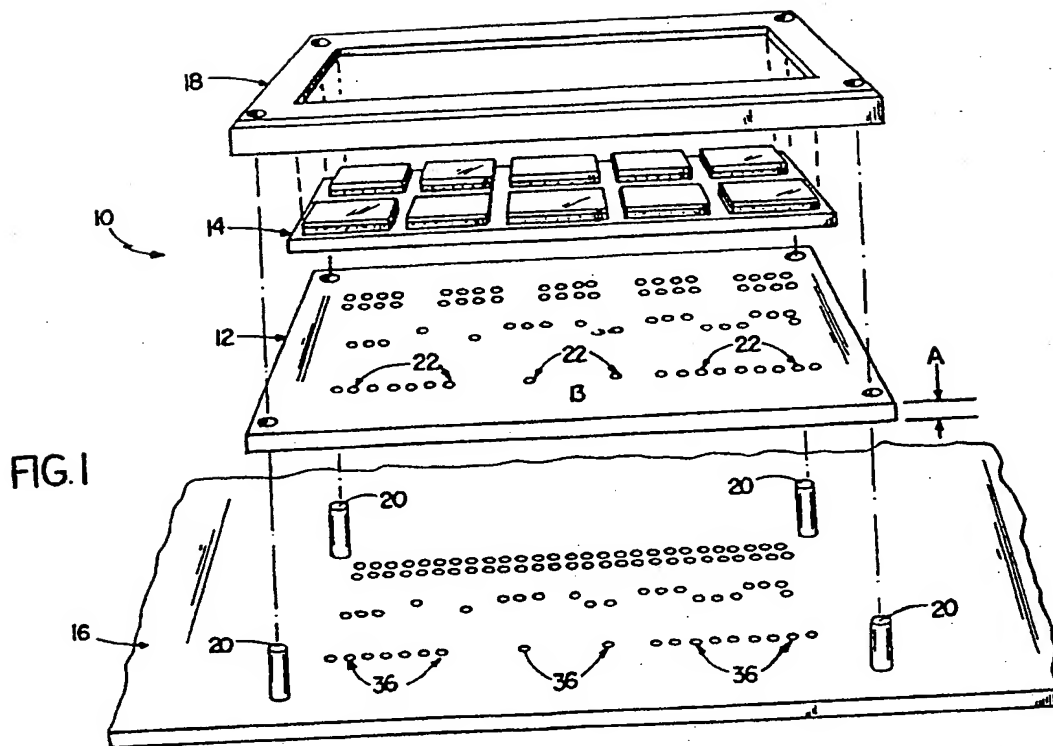
8. The area array connector device of claim 7 wherein said pad engagement surfaces are disposed generally symmetrically about said axis.
9. The area array connector device of claim 8 wherein said support member engagement surfaces are disposed generally symmetrically about said axis.
10. The area array connector device of claim 9 wherein said pad engagement surfaces are rounded convexly.
11. The area array device of claim 10 wherein said interconnect element has a first body diameter in the region of said body adjacent said terminal member and a second terminal diameter in the region of said terminal member between said pad engagement surface and said support member engagement surface, said second diameter being greater than said first diameter.
12. The area array device of claim 11 wherein said interconnect element being disposed in an aperture extending generally through said support member, said aperture having a diameter generally corresponding to said first body diameter of said interconnect element, the support member engagement surfaces of said terminal elements of said second, greater diameter adapted to bear upon the opposite surfaces of said support member in a manner to resist displacement of said terminal members into said support member.

13. The area array device of claim 12 wherein said support member comprises a film disposed on at least one support surface, the modulus of elasticity of the film allowing application of higher compressional forces than allowed by said elastomeric foam alone. 5
14. The area array device of claim 13 said film is formed of polyester. 10
15. The array connector of claim 1 or 7 wherein said terminal members are substantially axis-symmetric relative to one another.
16. The array connector of claim 1 or 7 wherein said rigid body member and said terminal members are symmetric about said axis and together conformed substantially to a surface of revolution. 15 20
17. The array connector of claim 16 wherein said body member is disposed in a hole of circular cross-section generally corresponding in diameter to the diameter of said rigid body member. 25
18. The array connector of claim 1 or 7 wherein said interconnect element and said support members are preformed members, said interconnect element having preformed terminal members that are enlarged relative to said body member and said support member having preformed through-holes that are smaller than said terminal member, and 30
- said interconnect element and support member are cooperatively constructed to enable insertion of said rigid body members by elastomeric yielding of the walls of said through-hole of said support member, during said insertion. 35 40
19. The area array connector device of claim 1 or 7 wherein said pad engagement surfaces conform substantially to sections of a sphere. 45

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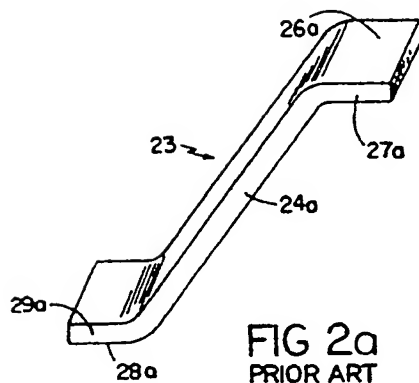


FIG 2a  
PRIOR ART

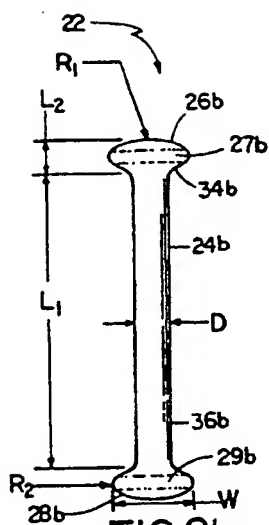


FIG 2b

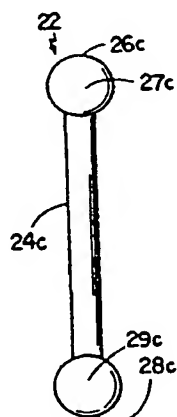


FIG 2c

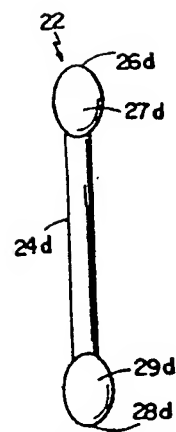


FIG 2d

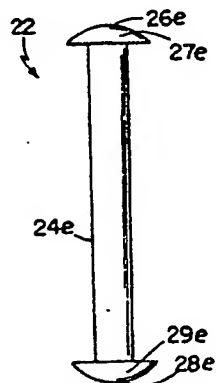


FIG 2e

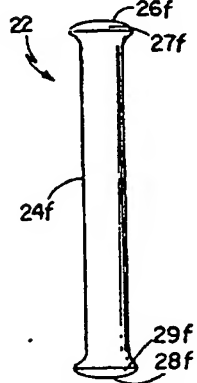


FIG 2f

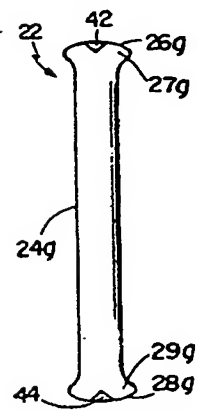


FIG 2g

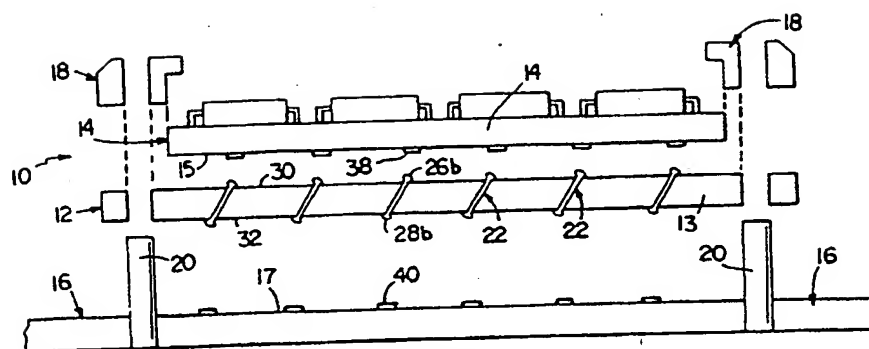


FIG.3

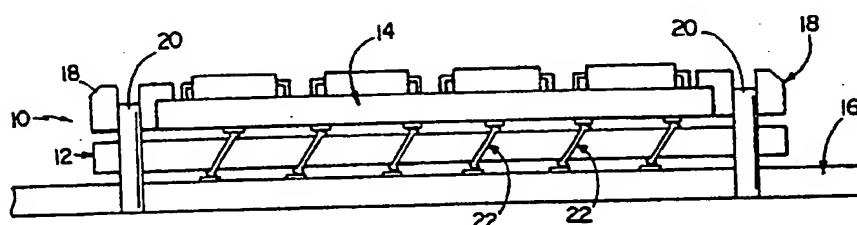


FIG.4

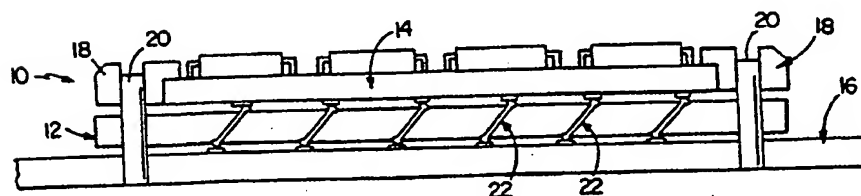
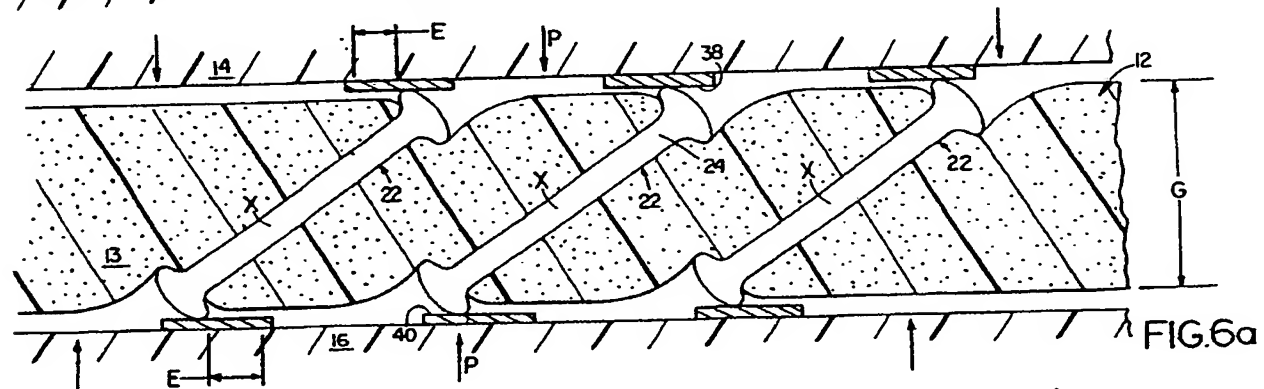
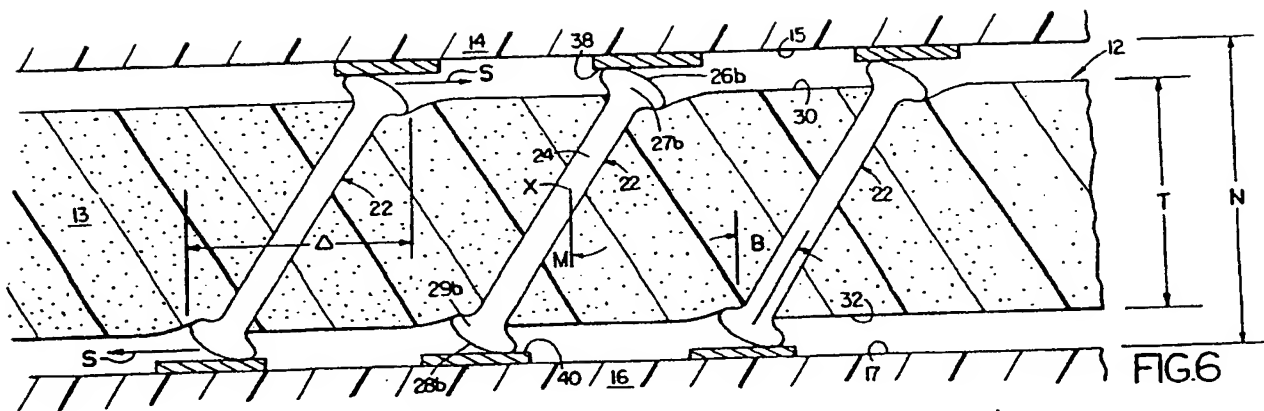


FIG.5



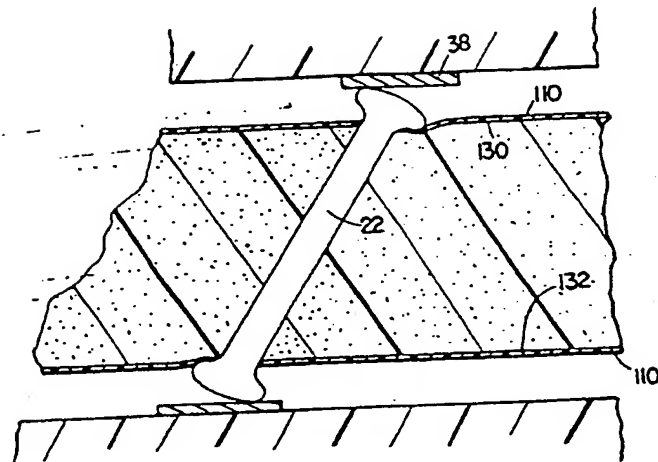


FIG. 7

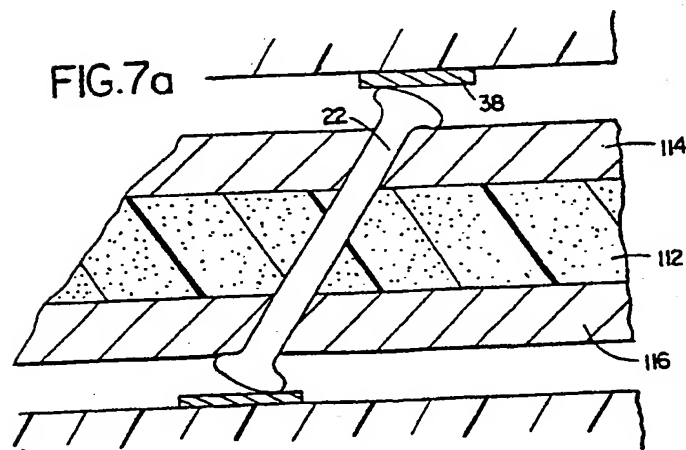


FIG. 7a



European  
Patent Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 12 3246

### DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A,D	US-A-4 593 961 (COSMO) * column 5, lines 46 - 63; figures 6, 8 * - - -	1,7	H 01 R 23/72 H 01 R 13/24
A	US-A-4 469 389 (GRABBE ET AL) * column 3, lines 16 - 40; figures 1, 2 * - - -	1,7	
A,D	US-A-4 793 814 (ZIFCAK ET AL.) * column 5, lines 39 - 57; figure 6 * - - - - -	7	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			H 01 R
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		27 March 91	HORAK A.L.
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b>			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date	
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